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The examination of the above-identified patent application has shown the following results:

An answer is due within a period of

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upon receipt of this Official Letter.

If new documents (e.g. specification, parts of the specification, claims, drawings) are filed, **two** copies thereof are required. Only one copy of the response is requested.

If the specification, the claims or the drawings are amended during the examination procedure, the Applicant is requested - unless these amendments are suggested by the Patent and Trademark Office - to individually mark the passages in the originally filed documents, disclosing the features described in the new documents.

The following citations are mentioned for the first time in this office action. (If numbered, their numbering is adhered to throughout the future proceedings):

(1) EP 337762 B1

Note on the Possibility of Branching Off a Utility Model Application

The Applicant of a patent application effectively filed in the Federal Republic of Germany after January 1, 1987, may file a utility model application relating to the same subject-matter and may, at the same time, claim the filing date of the prior patent application. This derived utility model application (Art. 5 of the Utility Model Act) may be filed within 2 months from the end of the month when the patent application became abandoned on account of a legally valid rejection, voluntary withdrawal or fictive withdrawal, when opposition proceedings were closed or - in case a patent has been granted - when the time limit for lodging an appeal from the decision of grant lapsed to no effect. Detailed information about the requirements to be met by a utility model application, including the derived utility model application, is set out in the "Merkblatt für Gebrauchsmusteranmelder (G6181)" (Leaflet about the Filing of a Utility Model Application), which can be obtained free of charge from the Patent Office and the Public Inspection Hall in the Patent Office.

Examining Division indicates publication (1) as prior art barring patentability and anticipating novelty of the system according to the present application.

Fig. 15 in combination with Fig. 2 in publication (1) disclose

A communication system (col. 5/l. 54 – communication system -) utilizing a two-wire type transmission line A, B (col. 6/l.4 - twisted pair-wire -) for transmitting transmission signals in opposite phases (col. 6/l.s.26-31), comprising:
a plurality of nodes (col.14/l.s.38-42 – transmitter, receiver -) connected to said two-wire type transmission line A, B; and
a terminating resistor R5+R6 or R10+R11 incorporated in each of said nodes.

Hence, the system according to claim 1 is not new in view of the cited prior art according to (1). Therefore, patent claim 1 is not grantable.

Similarly, Fig. 2 in publication (1) discloses

A reception circuit (col. 5/l.s.53-54 – receiver circuit -) for receiving a transmission signal in a communication system (col. 5/l.54 – communication system-) utilizing a two-wire type transmission line (col. 6/l.4 – twisted pair wire -) for transmitting transmission signals in opposite phases (col. 6/l.s.26-31), comprising:
an AC coupling circuit C1, C2 (col. 6/l.5/ - AC coupling capacitors -) for extracting AC components (which is necessarily read by an expert as AC coupling circuit), in a transmission signal input through said transmission lines A,B;
a bias circuit R1, R2 for applying a bias voltage (which, by an expert, usually is also read as „bias current“ as in col. 6/l.s.42-46) to a signal output from said AC coupling circuit; and
a clip circuit N for clipping the level (col. 6/l.s. 21-25 in combination with col. 17/l.s.53-54 – voltage limitation -) of a signal output from said bias circuit (which is readable for an expert in the circuit arrangement according to Fig. 2)

associated with each of said transmission line (col. 6/ls.6-10).

The device according to further independent claim 4 is not new in view of the prior art according to (1). Hence, claim 4 is not grantable, either.

Supplying predetermined potentials to said transmission lines via resistors, according to claim 2, has been revealed by (1), Fig. 15/ -R5, R6 – in combination with col. 15/ls. 20-26.

The features of the reception circuit of claim 3 are also known from publication (1), as already stated in connection with patent claim 4.

The features of a bias circuit according to Fig. 7 is also revealed for an expert in (1), col. 1/ls. 8-10, and also the remaining documents do not contain any patentable difference exceeding an expert's knowledge and expertise.

The grant of a patent cannot be expected.

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US; K.J. GORGA et al.: "Anti-saturating ANR
cable receiver"

(73) Proprietor: **THE FURUKAWA ELECTRIC CO.,**
LTD.
6-1, 2-chome, Marunouchi
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo(JP)

(72) Inventor: **Ichle, Takamichi**
1-4-41, Takada
Chigasaki-shi Kanagawa 253(JP)

(74) Representative: **Tomlinson, Kerry John et al**
Frank B. Dehn & Co.
European Patent Attorneys
Imperial House
15-19 Kingsway
London WC2B 6UZ (GB)

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Description

The present invention relates to a high-reliability serial data communication system using balanced transmission lines and equipped with an AC coupling receiver circuit.

To improve the reliability of a data communication system, it is known to connect various units forming a communication system to one another by a balanced transmission line, e.g., a twisted pair having a pair of electric wires twisted around each other, deliver signals of opposite phases to the paired electric wires, respectively, and detect the differential between the signals as a transmission signal. This type of communication system is used also for a control system of a motor vehicle. To be used with a motor vehicle wherein the protection of human life must be given top priority, a data communication system is not only required to be satisfactorily durable and low in manufacturing cost, but is also required to have high reliability, i.e., fail-safe functions, under various environments. For example, even in the event of an abnormal condition such that the voltage of one of the paired transmission lines is fixed at a constant voltage, e.g., an earth potential, a power supply voltage, etc. or is opened due to the disconnection of a connector or the like, or that a short circuit occurs between the transmission lines, normal transmission functions of the various units of the system must be retained.

A bus driver/receiver of a distributed multiplex transmission system for motor vehicles is conventionally known which is equipped with a receiver circuit of the type determining the presence/absence of an input signal to the transmission lines (i.e., passive or dominant state of the transmission lines) by the voltage difference between the balanced transmission lines (see SAE, RECOMMENDED PRACTICE J-1850). In this arrangement, however, if the voltage of one transmission line is fixed at an earth potential, for example, the output logic level of the paired transmission lines is also fixed even though the logic level of the signals applied to the other transmission line varies normally, thus failing to achieve normal receiving functions and to satisfy the above-mentioned requirements for an automobile system. In view of this, an AC coupling receiver circuit is conventionally used in which a capacitor is arranged before a receiver circuit connected to the transmission lines, to enable normal reception of signals based on the output logic of a normal transmission line whose voltage is not fixed, e.g., at the earth potential, even in the case of the above-mentioned trouble. By simply connecting the capacitor, however, the direct-current level of the transmission signal changes as the signal passes through the capaci-

tor, depending on the duty ratio of the signal, whereby the received threshold voltage to be applied to a signal processing circuit next to the capacitor varies and thus normal signal reception cannot be performed. Therefore, in this AC coupling system, measures must be taken to eliminate the fluctuation of the direct-current level, in particular, the fluctuation of the received threshold voltage caused by the charge stored in the capacitor during serial pulse transmission. For example, an arrangement illustrated in FIG. 1 is conventionally used in which signal voltages at the two signal lines are applied via an AC coupling to a differential amplifier, which preferably comprises a high-speed operational amplifier, and the voltage differential between the two signals, delivered from the differential amplifier, is subjected to level shift by another AC coupling and then is compared with a reference voltage.

According to this prior art arrangement, however, a differential amplifier comprising, e.g., a high-speed operational amplifier, must be arranged after the AC coupling, which leads to an increase in the number of component parts of the circuit and accordingly in cost and also requires a large space for the arrangement.

FR 2443770 discloses a receiver circuit including a circuit to recover the continuous component. The system operates to prevent a fault in any one of several peripherals which may be connected to the central unit from affecting the functioning of the others.

An object of the present invention is to provide a communication system equipped with an AC coupling receiver circuit, which can prevent the fluctuation of a received threshold voltage caused by the charge stored in an AC coupling capacitor during signal transmission, and can transmit signals even in various abnormal conditions, thus providing high reliability and durability under various environments, and which is inexpensive and simple in structure with a small number of component parts and accordingly can be constructed to be small in size at low cost.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a high-reliability communication system for a variety of transmission applications including a transmission within a motor vehicle, which system is capable of signal transmission even in the event of an abnormal condition such that a balanced transmission line is fixed at a constant voltage or opened, or that a short circuit occurs between the transmission lines.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a communication system equipped with an AC coupling receiver circuit which can receive transmission signals at a high speed even if the signal waveform is rounded, and accordingly can

achieve a high-speed transmission rate,

A further object of the present invention is to provide a high-reliability communication system which can be constructed by adding a minimum number of component parts to a conventional circuit, and in which the bias condition of transmission lines and the operative state of a receiver circuit can be automatically changed when abnormality occurs, to ensure signal transmission and accordingly no special logic circuit is required for the discrimination of occurrence of abnormality and for the control operation during abnormal condition.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a communication system including a pair of transmission lines, as a balanced transmission line, and at least one transmitter circuit and at least one AC coupling receiver circuit both connected to the transmission lines, said AC coupling receiver circuit comprising:

AC coupling capacitors connected to said pair of transmission lines, respectively;

voltage comparator means connected to said pair of transmission lines through said AC coupling capacitors; and

a non-linear element between said pair of transmission lines at a position between said capacitors and said voltage comparator means;

characterised in that said communication system further comprises means for biasing said pair of transmission lines at predetermined bias conditions with respect to ground potential; and

short-circuit detection means for detecting a short-circuit occurring between said pair of transmission lines; wherein said biasing means includes a bias circuit for changing a bias condition of one of said pair of transmission lines when said short-circuit detection means detects a short-circuit.

Preferably, the non-linear element comprises at least one diode or at least one Zener diode.

Preferably the AC coupling receiver circuit includes input potential fixing means for fixing the voltage of a transmission line-side portion of the AC coupling capacitor connected to the transmission line whose bias condition is changed, at a predetermined potential when the short-circuit detection means detects a short circuit.

Still preferably, the communication system of the present invention comprises impedance altering means arranged at input sides of the AC coupling capacitors, respectively, for altering impedances of the input sides of the AC coupling capacitors. When one of the two transmission lines is opened, the impedance altering means brings the input side of the AC coupling capacitor corresponding to the open transmission line to a low impedance state. The impedance altering means preferably comprises an emitter follower circuit, and further preferably, an element is inserted at a base side of the

emitter follower circuit, for causing a voltage drop.

The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the ensuing detailed description of examples of the invention taken in connection with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a circuit diagram of a conventional AC coupling receiver circuit;

FIG. 2 is a circuit diagram of an AC coupling receiver circuit according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a graph showing a voltage-current characteristic of a non-linear element appearing in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4A is a waveform diagram showing changes of voltages of first and second buses in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4B is a waveform diagram showing changes of voltages at the input terminals of a comparator shown in FIG. 2, in response to pulse inputs;

FIG. 4C is a waveform diagram showing changes of outputs of the comparator in response to pulse inputs;

FIG. 5A is a diagram similar to FIG. 4A, showing voltage changes when the voltage of the second bus of FIG. 2 is fixed at a constant voltage;

FIG. 5B is a diagram similar to FIG. 4B, showing voltage changes when the voltage of the second bus is fixed at a constant voltage;

FIG. 5C is a diagram similar to FIG. 4C, showing output changes when the voltage of the second bus is fixed at a constant voltage;

FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing an example of the circuit arrangement of FIG. 2;

FIG. 7 is a circuit diagram showing a modification of the circuit of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8A is a waveform diagram showing voltage changes of the first and second buses in the circuit of FIG. 6 when a pulse with a rounded wave form is input;

FIG. 8B is a waveform diagram showing voltage changes at the input terminals of the comparator in the circuit of FIG. 6 when a pulse with a rounded waveform is input;

FIG. 8C is a waveform diagram showing output changes of the comparator in the circuit of FIG. 6 when a pulse with a rounded waveform is input;

FIG. 9A is a diagram similar to FIG. 8A, showing voltage changes of the first and second buses in the circuit of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9B is a diagram similar to FIG. 8B, showing voltage changes at the input terminals of a comparator in the circuit of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9C is a diagram similar to FIG. 8C, showing output changes of the comparator in the circuit of FIG. 7;

FIG. 10A is a waveform diagram illustrating in detail voltage changes of the first bus in the circuit of FIG. 6 when a pulse with a rounded waveform is input;

FIG. 10B is a waveform diagram illustrating output changes of the comparator in response to the bus voltage changes shown in FIG. 10A;

FIG. 10C is a diagram similar to FIG. 10A, showing bus voltage changes in the circuit of FIG. 7;

FIG. 10D is a diagram similar to FIG. 10B, showing output changes of the comparator in the circuit of FIG. 7;

FIG. 11 is a circuit diagram of a transmitter circuit according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12A is a diagram showing a waveform of a digital signal input to the circuit of FIG. 11;

FIG. 12B is a diagram showing waveforms of signals in transmission lines of FIG. 11 when a short circuit occurs between the transmission lines;

FIG. 12C is a waveform diagram showing voltage changes at the input sides of capacitors of FIG. 11 when a short circuit occurs between the transmission lines;

FIG. 12D is a waveform diagram showing output changes of a comparator in FIG. 11 when a short circuit occurs between the transmission lines;

FIG. 13A is a circuit diagram illustrating an arrangement of a short-circuit detection circuit and a switch circuit shown in FIG. 11;

FIG. 13B is a circuit diagram illustrating another example of the circuit arrangement of FIG. 11;

FIG. 14 is a circuit diagram illustrating an arrangement of an abnormal voltage detection circuit and switch circuit of FIG. 11;

FIG. 15 is a circuit diagram illustrating a transmitter/receiver circuit according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 16 is a circuit diagram illustrating an arrangement of a switch circuit and an abnormal voltage detection circuit in FIG. 15;

FIG. 17 is a circuit diagram illustrating a modification of the circuit of FIG. 15; and

FIG. 18 is a circuit diagram illustrating a transmitter/receiver circuit according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 2, an AC coupling receiver circuit for use in a communication system, according to a first embodiment of the present invention, comprises a voltage comparator means 1 which has an output terminal e, a non-inverted input terminal c connected to a first bus 2 serving as a

signal transmission line, and an inverted input terminal d connected to a second bus 3 also serving as a signal transmission line. The first and second buses 2 and 3 constitute a twisted pair wire, for example, and have AC coupling capacitors C1 and C2 arranged therein, respectively. A non-linear element N is connected between the first and second buses 2 and 3 in a position between the voltage comparator means 1 and the capacitors C1 and C2, respectively. Specifically, the non-linear element N has a positive terminal (indicated by "+" in FIG. 2) connected to the second bus 3, and a negative terminal (indicated by "-" in FIG. 2) connected to the first bus 2. A resistor R2 is connected at one end to a portion of the first bus 2 between the capacitor C1 and the voltage comparator means 1, and is grounded at the other end thereof. A pull-up power supply Vcc is connected through a resistor R1 to a portion of the second bus 3 between the capacitor C2 and the voltage comparator means 1. The non-linear element N is composed of a diode, a Zener diode, or the like; alternatively, the element N may include a plurality of diodes, Zener diodes or the like, arranged in series, if required.

The receiver circuit is adapted to receive a pair of signals of opposite phases from a transmitter circuit (not shown) connected to input terminals a and b of the first and second buses 2 and 3, as described later with reference to other embodiments of the present invention. In this embodiment, positive and negative serial pulses are respectively applied to the first and second buses 2 and 3.

FIG. 3 shows a voltage-current characteristic of the non-linear element N, wherein the voltage at the + terminal is defined as a positive voltage and electric current flowing from the + terminal to the - terminal is defined as a positive current. As is clear from the figure, the non-linear element N has the characteristic that current suddenly starts to flow when the terminal voltage exceeds a voltage Vf.

The resistors R1 and R2 are provided for passing a bias current I_b through the non-linear element N even during the absence of input signals, to develop a voltage approximately equal to the voltage Vf between the terminals of the element N. Instead of using the resistors R1 and R2, other suitable elements may be provided to produce the bias current.

The voltage comparator means 1 is adapted to compare the difference V_{DEF} between the voltages at the non-inverted input terminal and the inverted input terminal thereof with a threshold voltage V_{TH} . The voltage comparator means 1 outputs a high-level voltage from the output terminal e thereof when $V_{DEF} > V_{TH}$ stands, and outputs a low-level voltage from the terminal e when $V_{DEF} < V_{TH}$ stands. Of course, to reduce the influence of noise,

the threshold voltage V_{TH} when the output voltage is inverted from low level to high level may be set to a value higher by ΔV_H than that when the output voltage is inverted from high level to low level, to obtain a hysteresis characteristic.

The operation of the AC coupling receiver circuit will now be described. For the sake of simplicity, the following description is based on the assumption that the threshold voltage V_{TH} of the voltage comparator means 1 is 0 (zero). In this case, the voltage comparator means 1 outputs a high-level voltage from the output terminal e thereof when the voltage at the input terminal c is higher than that at the other input terminal d, and outputs a low-level voltage when the former is lower than the latter.

In the absence of input signals, that is, when no pulses are input to the first and second buses 2 and 3, the bias current I_B flows from the pull-up power supply V_{CC} to the resistor R2 through the resistor R1 and the non-linear element N, and accordingly a voltage approximately equal to the voltage V_f is induced between the input terminals c and d of the voltage comparator means 1. At this time, a low-level output appears at the output terminal e of the voltage comparator means 1 (FIG. 4C).

If a positive pulse having a crest value V_a and a negative pulse having a crest value V_b are applied to the first and second buses 2 and 3, respectively, as shown in FIG. 4A, the voltage at the positive terminal of the non-linear element N increases by V_a and the voltage at the negative terminal thereof decreases by V_b , from their respective values during the absence of input signals. As a result, a voltage equal to the difference between the sum of the crest values V_a and V_b of the positive and negative pulses and the voltage V_f produced by the non-linear element N (i.e., $V_a + V_b - V_f$) is applied to the non-linear element N as a reverse voltage, and thus almost no current flows through the non-linear element N. At this time, a voltage between the input terminals c and d of the voltage comparator means 1 changes to $V_a + V_b - V_f$ having a polarity opposite to that produced during the absence of input signals, and a high-level output appears at the output terminal e of the comparator 1, as shown in FIGS. 4B and 4C. That is, the output of the terminal e is inverted. This output inversion takes place when the sum of the amounts of changes in the voltages of the first and second buses 2 and 3 exceeds the voltage V_f produced by the non-linear element N. This also applies to the case where the threshold voltage V_{TH} of the voltage comparator means 1 is not equal to 0 (zero); that is, the inversion of the output of the terminal e occurs when the sum of the amounts of changes in the voltages of the first and second buses 2 and 3

exceeds $V_f + V_{TH}$.

When substantially no current flows in the non-linear element N, the capacitor C1 arranged in the first bus 2 is charged through the resistor R2 in such a direction that the cathode voltage at the negative terminal of the non-linear element N is lowered, while the capacitor C2 of the second bus 3 is charged through the resistor R1 in such a direction that the anode voltage at the positive terminal is increased.

Upon completion of the application of current pulses to the first and second buses 2 and 3, the circuit resumes the initial state (with no signals applied thereto) wherein the voltage V_f is applied to the non-linear element N, thus providing a low-level output at the terminal e. After the current pulse input ends, the charge of the capacitors C1 and C2 stored while the non-linear element N was in a substantially cut-off state is quickly discharged through the non-linear element N, which is now in a conductive state with its terminal voltage increased above the level V_f . In other words, the terminal voltage of the capacitors C1 and C2 which has been increased in response to the input of the current pulses is returned to the initial zero level in a moment. Therefore, even if pulses are successively input at short intervals of time (FIG. 4A shows the case where two pulses with different pulse widths are successively input), the discharge time of the capacitors C1 and C2 does not change significantly.

Now, the operation of the receiver circuit when abnormality occurs, for example, when the voltage of one of the buses, e.g., the second bus 3, is fixed at a constant value (e.g., earth potential) will be described with reference to FIGS. 5A to 5C. The following description is based on the assumption that the threshold voltage V_{TH} of the voltage comparator means 1 is 0 (zero), for the sake of simplicity.

As shown in Fig. 5A, the response to pulse inputs, the voltage of the first bus 2 is increased by the crest value V_a of the positive input pulse from the level at the time of absence of input signals, but the voltage at the input terminal b of the second bus 3 (abnormal bus) remains fixed at a constant value regardless of presence/absence of pulse input. As a result, the voltage applied to the input terminal c of the voltage comparator means 1 increases by the value V_a from the level during the absence of input signals, in response to a pulse input, whereas the voltage applied to the inverted input terminal d is fixed at a constant level, as shown in FIG. 5B. The receiver circuit is constructed such that the crest value V_a of the positive pulse applied to the first bus 2 is greater than the voltage V_f produced by the non-linear element N, that is, the relationship $V_a > V_f$ is fulfilled. Accord-

ingly, the voltage levels of the input terminals c and d of the voltage comparator means 1 cross each other between the time of absence of input pulses and the time when positive pulses are input. In the case where the threshold voltage V_{TH} of the voltage comparator means 1 is not equal to 0 (zero), the receiver circuit may be constructed such that the relationship $V_a > V_f + V_{TH}$ is fulfilled, to obtain similar results. Thus, when a positive pulse is input, the output of the terminal e is inverted from low-level (the level during the absence of input pulses) to high-level. The operation of the receiver circuit described above is substantially the same as in the case where the voltage of the first bus 2 is fixed at a constant level. Thus, even if the voltage of one of the buses is fixed at a constant voltage, the output level of the receiver circuit changes in exact response to the presence/absence of the pulse which is input properly, and the receiver circuit operates in substantially the same manner as in the case where positive and negative pulses are properly input thereto. The connection of the terminals c and d of the voltage comparator means 1 of FIG. 2 which respect to the buses may be reversed, if an opposite logic output need be provided at the terminal e.

FIG. 6 shows an example of the circuit of FIG. 2, in which a diode D and a comparator C are used as the non-linear element N and the voltage comparator means 1, respectively. In this arrangement, the voltages V_f and V_{TH} are set to about 0.6 V and 0 (zero) V, respectively, and therefore, when the sum of the amounts of changes in the voltages of the first and second buses 2 and 3 exceeds a predetermined value of about 0.6 V, the output of the terminal e of the comparator C changes from low level to high level.

FIG. 7 shows a modification of the circuit of FIG. 6, in which a Zener diode ZD is used in place of the diode D, to improve the transmission rate.

The reason why the receiver circuit of FIG. 7 has a high transmission rate will be explained in comparison with the circuit of FIG. 6. Let it be assumed that, in the circuits of FIGS. 6 and 7, positive and negative pulses each having rounded leading and trailing edges are applied to the input terminals a and b of the first and second buses 2 and 3, respectively, as shown in FIGS. 8A and 9A.

As the positive and negative pulses are input, a voltage which increases by the crest value V_a of the positive pulse from the level of absence of input pulses in accordance with the waveform of the rising portion of the positive pulse is applied to the non-inverted input terminal c of the comparator C, and a voltage which decreases by the crest value V_b of the negative pulse from the level of absence of input pulse in accordance with the waveform of the falling portion of the negative

pulse is applied to the inverted input terminal d of the comparator C (FIGS. 8B and 9B). When the relationship in magnitude of the levels of the voltages applied to the input terminals c and d are reversed from that during the absence of input pulses, the output of the comparator C changes from low level to high level (FIGS. 8C and 9C). These operations are common to both the circuits of FIGS. 6 and 7, and therefore, the output of the comparator in these circuits are inverted at the same time in response to the application of positive and negative pulses.

In the circuit of FIG. 6, however, the voltages at the input terminals c and d of the comparator C increase and decrease, respectively, until the voltage across these input terminals reaches the value $(V_a + V_b - V_f)$ (FIGS. 8B and 10A). In the circuit of FIG. 7, in contrast, the voltages at the input terminals of the comparator C stop increasing and decreasing, respectively, when the voltage across the input terminals of the comparator reaches a Zener voltage V_z of the Zener diode ZD (FIGS. 9B and 10C). When the positive and negative pulses decay in the circuits of FIGS. 6 and 7, the voltages at the input terminals c and d of the comparators C respectively decrease and increase in accordance with the falling and rising characteristics of the positive and negative pulses, respectively. Thus, although the circuits of FIGS. 6 and 7 are similar in operation when pulses decay, pulse-rise and pulse-fall start voltage levels (FIG. 10C) of the input terminals c and d of the comparator C are smaller in the circuit of FIG. 7 using the Zener diode ZD, than the corresponding voltage levels (FIG. 10A) of the input terminals of the comparator C of FIG. 6, due to the above-mentioned difference. Accordingly, the timing of inversion of the output level of the comparator during decay of pulses is earlier in the circuit of FIG. 7 (FIG. 10D) than in the circuit of FIG. 6 (FIG. 10B), and thus the circuit of FIG. 7 has a higher transmission rate.

A transmitter circuit according to a second embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to FIG. 11.

In FIG. 11, which shows the transmitter circuit provided in a unit of a data transmission system, the base of a transistor Tr1 is connected to the input terminal of the transmitter circuit through a resistor R14 and an inverter IN, and also connected to a power supply V_{cc} through a resistor R12. The emitter of the transistor Tr1 is connected to the power supply V_{cc} through a resistor R10. The base of another transistor Tr2 is connected to the input terminal of the transmitter circuit through a resistor R15, and is grounded via a resistor R13. The emitter of the transistor Tr2 is grounded via a resistor R11. The collectors of the transistors Tr1 and Tr2 are connected to respective output termi-

nals of the transmitter circuit.

Transmission lines A and B, which may be a twisted pair wire or a similar transmission line of a balanced type, are connected at one end to the respective output terminals of the transmitter circuit and connected at another end to input terminals a and b of a receiver circuit, respectively. The receiver circuit has an arrangement fundamentally similar to that shown in FIG. 2 and is constructed such that it can transmit signals even if one of the transmission lines A and B is short-circuited to a fixed voltage such as an earth potential. As distinct from the circuit of FIG. 2, the receiver circuit of FIG. 11 includes resistors R3 and R4 connected respectively between the input terminal a and an AC coupling capacitor C1 and between the input terminal b and an AC coupling capacitor C2. The transmission line B is connected to the power supply Vcc through a resistor R8, and the transmission line A is grounded via a resistor R7 and a switch circuit H.

A short-circuit detector circuit F is connected between input-side portions of the transmission lines A and B, i.e., between the portions thereof on the side of the two output terminals of the transmitter circuit, and is adapted to open to switch circuit H when it detects a short circuit between the transmission lines A and B. Also, a switch S2 is shown between output-side portions of the transmission lines A and B, i.e., between the portions thereof on the side of the input terminals a and b of the receiver circuit (the switch S2 is illustrated for the sake of explanation only, to indicate a short-circuited condition and accordingly is not an element actually provided in the circuit).

In the receiver circuit, an abnormal voltage detection circuit G is connected to a portion of the transmission line B. A switch circuit I is connected at one end to the connection point between the resistor R4 of the receiver circuit connected to the transmission line B and the capacitor C2, and has another end grounded. The switch circuit I serves to short circuit the connection point to the earth potential, optionally through a capacitor, under the control of the detection circuit G.

The transmitter circuit of FIG. 11 operates as follows:

When the transmission lines A and B are not short-circuited and are in a normal state, both the short-circuit detection circuit F and the abnormal voltage detection circuit G are inoperative, and accordingly the switch circuit H is in a closed state and the switch circuit I is in an open state. Therefore, in this state, the transmitter circuit operates in the same manner as the circuit of FIG. 2.

If the switch S2 is closed to cause a short circuit between the transmission lines A and B, for example, the short-circuit detection circuit F de-

tects this short circuit and causes the switch circuit H to open. As a result, the transmission line A is connected to the power supply Vcc through the switch S2 and the resistor R8, so that its voltage rises up to the level of the power supply Vcc. If, at this time, a digital signal D (FIG. 12A) is applied from a digital circuit (not shown) to the transmitter circuit, the current is not supplied from the transistor Tr1 because the voltage of the transmission line A is increased approximately to the level of the power supply Vcc, and accordingly the transistor Tr1 can be regarded as being turned off. On the other hand, the transistor Tr2 is turned on, and thus the signal at the transmission line B has a waveform as shown in FIG. 12B. Since the transmission line A is connected to the transmission line B through the switch S2, the signal waveforms of the transmission lines A and B are both similar to a normal signal waveform of the transmission line B, as shown in FIG. 12B.

Since the voltage of the transmission line A is increased from a normal voltage range indicated by the broken line in FIG. 12B, the abnormal voltage detection circuit G connected to the transmission line A is operated to close the switch circuit I and thus connect the transmission line A to the earth potential. As a result, no signal appears at an input J of the receiver circuit, and accordingly the voltage difference between the inputs J and K of the receiver circuit (FIG. 12C) is similar to that observed in the case of short-circuiting the second bus 3 of the circuit of FIG. 2 to the earth potential, so that the receiver circuit outputs a signal E (FIG. 12D). In this manner, the digital signal D transmitted from the digital circuit can be reproduced as the signal E, thus enabling signal transmission through the transmitter circuit.

FIGS. 13A and 13B each show an example of the switch circuit H and the short-circuit detection circuit F appearing in FIG. 11. In FIG. 13A, the short-circuit detection circuit F comprises resistors R21 and R22 as a voltage divider, connected in series between the transmission line A and an earth potential, and a transistor Tr11. The collector of the transistor Tr11 is connected to the power supply Vcc through a resistor R23, the base is connected to the connection point between the resistors R21 and R22, and the emitter is grounded. The switch circuit H comprises a transistor Tr12 having a collector thereof connected to the bias resistor R7, a base thereof connected to the collector of the transistor Tr11 of the short-circuit detection circuit F, and an emitter thereof grounded.

When the voltage of the transmission line A is low, the voltage divided by the resistors R21 and R22 is not high enough to turn on the transistor Tr11, while the transistor Tr12 is supplied with the

base current through the resistor R23 and accordingly is turned on. Therefore, the switch circuit H is closed when the transmission lines A and B are in a normal state.

If a short circuit occurs between the transmission lines A and B, the voltage of the transmission line A rises to a value $V_{cc}/2$ equal to the voltage obtained by dividing the power supply voltage V_{cc} by the bias resistors R8 and R7 in FIG. 11. Accordingly, the base voltage of the transistor Tr11 becomes high enough to turn on the transistor Tr11, whereas the transistor Tr12 is turned off, and hence the switch circuit H is opened. The circuit of this embodiment has the function of preventing the resistor R8 from being heated by an excessive current flowing therethrough when the transmission line A is short-circuited to a high voltage.

The short-circuit detection circuit F shown in FIG. 13B comprises a transistor TR21 having a base thereof connected to the transmission line A through a resistor R31, an emitter thereof connected to the transmission line B, and a collector thereof grounded via resistors R33 and R34 as a voltage divider. The switch circuit H comprises a transistor Tr22 having a collector thereof connected to the bias resistor R7, a base thereof connected to the connection point between the resistors R33 and R34, and an emitter thereof grounded.

When the transmission lines A and B are in a normal state, a sufficient potential difference is present between the transmission lines A and B. Accordingly, the transistor Tr21 is turned on to cause the base current to flow through the transistor Tr22, thereby turning on the transistor Tr22. Thus, the switch circuit H is closed.

If the transmission line B is short-circuited to the transmission line A and accordingly the potential difference between the two transmission lines become 0 (zero), the transistor Tr21 is turned off and thus the transistor Tr22 is turned off, whereby the switch circuit H is opened.

FIG. 14 is an example of the abnormal voltage detection circuit G and the switch circuit I shown in FIG. 11. The detection circuit G comprises resistors R41 and R42 as a voltage divider, connected between the transmission line A and the ground potential, and the switch circuit I comprises a transistor Tr31. The collector of the transistor Tr31 is connected to the power supply V_{cc} through a resistor R43, the base is connected to the connection point between the voltage-dividing resistors R41 and R42, and the emitter of the transistor Tr31 is grounded. In this arrangement, when the voltage of the transmission line A exceeds a given voltage, the transistor Tr31 is turned on by the voltage divided by the resistors R41 and R42 and thus the point J is short-circuited to the earth potential. If d.c. short-circuiting of the point J to the earth

potential need be avoided on such occasion, a capacitor C3 (indicated by the parentheses in FIG. 14) may be arranged between the point J and the collector of the transistor Tr31.

The switch circuit H, the short-circuit detection circuit F, the abnormal voltage detection circuit G, and the switch circuit I need not necessarily be connected to the transmission line A; they may alternatively be connected to the transmission line B with their polarities changed.

A transmitter/receiver circuit according to a third embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to FIG. 15.

A transmitter/receiver circuit of this embodiment is characterized in that signal transmission is possible even when one of the transmission lines is open, thereby further improving the reliability of the system. More specifically, this embodiment is intended to eliminate the inconvenience of the receiver circuit of FIG. 2 that although signal transmission is possible when one of the transmission lines is fixed at a constant voltage, signals cannot be transmitted when one of the transmission lines is open. According to the circuit of FIG. 2, if the transmission line A is disconnected at a position corresponding to the symbol S in FIG. 15, for example, the impedance of the comparator at the input terminal thereof corresponding to the disconnected transmission line A is increased. Accordingly, when input signals are applied, the diode becomes cut-off, but the potential of the above-mentioned input terminal of the comparator drops since it is pulled down by the resistor. As a result, the voltage levels at both sides of the diode do not cross each other, that is, the output of the comparator is not inverted, thus failing to perform normal transmission.

In the arrangement of FIG. 15, the transmitter circuit has a similar arrangement to that of FIG. 11, whereas the receiver circuit includes the elements described later, in addition to those contained in the AC coupling receiver circuit of FIG. 2. The transmission line A is grounded via the bias resistor R7, and the transmission line B is connected to the power supply V_{cc} through the bias resistor R8. The connection point between the capacitor C1 and the resistor R3 is connected to the power supply V_{cc} through a switch circuit I1, and the connection point between the capacitor C2 and the resistor R4 is grounded via a switch circuit I2. The input side of the resistor R3 is connected the power supply V_{cc} through an abnormal voltage detection circuit G1, and is also connected to an earth potential via the resistor R5. The input side of the resistor R4 is grounded via an abnormal voltage detection circuit G2, and is connected to the power supply V_{cc} through the resistor R6.

The switch circuits I1 and I2 serve to cause d.c. short-circuiting or a.c. short-circuiting of the above-mentioned two connection points to a fixed voltage, and the abnormal voltage detection circuits G1 and G2 are adapted to close the switch circuits I1 and I2, respectively, when they detect an increase of the voltages of the transmission lines A and B above respective predetermined voltages. The combination of the switch circuit I1 and the detection circuit G1 and the combination of the switch circuit I2 and the detection circuit G2 respectively constitute an impedance altering means.

The circuit of FIG. 15 operates as follows:

The voltages of the transmission lines A and B are usually close to the earth potential and the power supply voltage Vcc, respectively, due to relatively low resistance of the bias resistors R7 and R8. In such cases, the abnormal voltage detection circuits G1 and G2 are not operated. The transmission lines A and B are respectively connected to the earth potential and the power supply Vcc through the resistors R5 and R6 with relatively high resistance, and also connected to the AC coupling receiver circuit through the resistors R3 and R4 with relatively low resistance, respectively. Thus, the circuit operates in the same manner as the receiver circuit of FIG. 2.

If the transmission line A is opened at a position corresponding to the symbol "S", for example, the potential at the connection point between the resistor R6 and the abnormal voltage detection circuit G2 is increased to approximately about the power supply voltage Vcc through the resistor R6. Accordingly, the detection circuit G2 is operated to close the switch circuit I2. The operation of the receiver circuit is thereafter the same as in the case where one of the transmission lines is short-circuited to the earth potential, described with reference to FIG. 2, permitting signal reception. The receiver circuit carries out a similar operation when the transmission line B is opened, but with the polarity of the circuit reversed, thus also permitting signal reception.

FIG. 16 shows an example of the switch circuits I1 and I2 and the abnormal voltage detection circuits G1 and G2 shown in FIG. 15.

In the arrangement of FIG. 16, a transistor Tr32 has an emitter thereof connected to the power supply Vcc, and a collector thereof connected through a capacitor C5 to one side of the resistor R3 close to the capacitor C1, and also connected to the earth potential via a resistor R53. Between the resistor R3 and the power supply Vcc, a voltage divider comprising resistors R51 and R52 is arranged, and the connection point between the resistors R51 and R52 is connected to the base of the transistor Tr32 and also connected through the

capacitor C6 to the collector of the same transistor Tr32. The transistor Tr32, the capacitors C5 and C6, and the resistor R53 constitute the switch circuit I1, and the resistors R51 and R52 constitute the abnormal voltage detection circuit G1.

A transistor Tr31 has an emitter thereof grounded, and a collector thereof connected through the capacitor C3 to one side of the resistor R4 close to the capacitor C2 and also connected to the power supply Vcc through a resistor R43. A voltage divider composed of resistors R41 and R42 is connected between the input terminal of the resistor R4 and the ground potential, and the connection point between these resistors R41 and R42 is connected to the base of the transistor Tr 31 and also connected through the capacitor C4 to the collector of the same transistor. The transistor Tr31, the capacitors C3 and C4, and the resistor R43 constitute the switch circuit I2, and the resistors R41 and R42 constitute the abnormal voltage detection circuit G2.

When the transmission line A is properly connected, the voltage thereof is low and accordingly the base current is given by the voltage divided by the resistors R41 and R42, whereby the transistor Tr 31 is turned off. If the transmission line A is opened at the position corresponding to the symbol "S", current flows from the power supply Vcc to the base of the transistor Tr31 through the resistor R6, thus turning on the transistor Tr31. As a result, the input side of the capacitor C2 close to the transistor Tr1 is short-circuited to the earth potential, and accordingly the connection point between the resistor R4 and the capacitor C3 is a.c. short-circuited to the earth potential through the capacitor C3.

The capacitor C4 has the function of maintaining the above-mentioned a.c. short-circuited state of the connection point for a certain time after the voltage returns to the normal level from an abnormal value. Therefore, in the case where the open state and the normal state of the transmission line A are alternately repeated at short intervals of time, the capacitor C4 serves to maintain the short-circuited state of the above connection point, thereby enabling the receiver circuit to receive signals.

FIG. 17 shows a modification of the circuit of FIG. 15, in which transmission lines A and B are connected to a receiver circuit of the same type as shown in FIG. 2, through an emitter follower circuit for lowering the impedance, to thereby enable normal transmission even when one of the transmission lines is open. In FIG. 17, a transistor Tr3 has a base thereof connected to one input terminal of the receiver circuit, a collector thereof connected to the power supply Vcc, and an emitter thereof connected to the earth potential via a resistor R52. The emitter of the transistor Tr3 is also connected to

one input terminal (-) of the comparator C through the capacitor C1. A transistor Tr4 has a base thereof connected to the other input terminal of the receiver circuit, an emitter thereof connected to the power supply Vcc through a resistor R51, and a collector thereof grounded. The emitter of the transistor Tr4 is also connected to the other input terminal (+) of the comparator C through the capacitor C2.

During normal operation, the emitter follower circuit passes therethrough transmission signals without changing their waveforms, and accordingly the receiver circuit operates normally. If the transmission line A is opened at the position corresponding to the symbol "S", the transistor Tr4 is turned off. However, the impedance of the connection points L and M is lowered by the resistors R51 and R52, and hence, the receiver operates in the same manner thereafter as in the case where one of the transmission lines is short-circuited to the earth potential, thus enabling signal reception. Meanwhile, resistors need not necessarily be used as the elements R51 and R52; for example, constant current supplies or the like may be connected instead.

As described above, the impedance altering means is arranged before (at the input side of) the receiver circuit including the capacitor which serves to cut off a direct-current component to enable signal reception even when one of the transmission lines is short-circuited to the earth potential. By thus using the impedance altering means to lower the impedance, it is possible to obtain a receiver circuit which is capable of signal reception even when one of the transmission lines is opened.

Next, a transmitter/receiver circuit according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 18. This transmitter/receiver circuit is intended to ensure normal signal transmission even in the event of occurrence of various troubles, for example, even when the voltage of one of the transmission lines is fixed to a constant potential, a short circuit occurs between the two transmission lines, or one of the transmission lines is disconnected. The transmission/receiver circuit comprises a transmitter circuit similar to that of FIG. 11, an emitter follower circuit biased as in the case of FIG. 11 and including transistors Tr3 and Tr4 like the arrangement of FIG. 17, and a receiver circuit having an arrangement fundamentally identical to that of FIG. 2. The receiver circuit includes AC coupling capacitors C1 and C2, and a non-linear circuit N for voltage limitation, and is adapted to enable signal reception even when one of the transmission lines is short-circuited to a constant voltage. If a difference of ground potential exists between the transmitting and receiving nodes, the ground potential of the

receiver circuit lowers and thus the potential at one end of the resistor R7 remote from the transistor Tr12 becomes higher than the power supply voltage, thus producing the possibility of the emitter follower circuit being operated improperly. To eliminate this awkward situation, diodes for producing a voltage drop are inserted before the emitter follower circuit. Reference symbols J1 and J2 denote constant current circuits.

The emitter follower circuit of FIG. 18 operates similarly to the aforementioned abnormal voltage detection circuit G and switch circuit I, to enable signal transmission in the event of short-circuiting between the transmission lines. For example, when the voltage at the one terminal of the resistor R7 rises, the transistor Tr4 is turned off, whereby the collector voltage of the transistor Tr4 is fixed at the power supply voltage by the constant current circuit J1. Even if one of the transmission lines is opened to cause a high-impedance state of the corresponding input terminal, for example, if the transmission line A is disconnected, the input voltage is increased through the resistor R6 and thus signal transmission is possible. If a plurality of receiver circuits, transmitter circuits, and bias circuits according to the present invention are arranged in parallel in the transmission lines, they can be operated without any inconveniences.

Claims

1. A communication system including a pair of transmission lines (A,B) as a balanced transmission line, and at least one transmitter circuit and at least one AC coupling receiver circuit both connected to the transmission lines, said AC coupling receiver circuit comprising:

AC coupling capacitors (C1,C2) connected to said pair of transmission lines (A,B), respectively;

voltage comparator means (1,C) connected to said pair of transmission lines (A,B) through said AC coupling capacitors (C1,C2); and

a non-linear element (N) connected between said pair of transmission lines (A,B) at a position between said capacitors (C1,C2) and said voltage comparator means (1,C);

characterised in that said communication system further comprises means (R7,R8) for biasing said pair of transmission lines (A,B) at predetermined bias conditions with respect to ground potential; and

short-circuit detection means (F) for detecting a short-circuit occurring between said pair of transmission lines; wherein said biasing means includes a bias circuit for changing a bias condition of one of said pair of transmission lines (A,B) when said short-circuit detec-

tion means (F) detects a short-circuit.

2. The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said non-linear element (N) comprises at least one diode (D).
3. The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said non-linear element (N) comprises at least one Zener diode (Zd).
4. The communication system according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said voltage comparator means (1,C) of said AC coupling receiver circuit comprises a comparator (C).
5. The communication system according to any preceding claim, wherein said AC coupling receiver circuit includes input potential fixing means for fixing the voltage of a transmission line-side portion of the AC coupling capacitor connected to the transmission line whose bias condition is changed, at a predetermined potential when said short-circuit detection means (F) detects a short circuit.
6. The communication system according to any preceding claim further comprising impedance altering means (Tr3,Tr4,R51,RST) arranged at input sides of said AC coupling capacitors (C1,C2), respectively, for altering impedances of the input sides of said AC coupling capacitors, and wherein when one of said pair of transmission lines (A,B) is opened, said impedance altering means (Tr3,Tr4,R51,R52) brings the input side of the AC coupling capacitor (C2) corresponding to the open transmission line (A) to a low impedance state.

Patentansprüche

1. Kommunikationssystem mit einem Paar Übertragungsleitungen (A, B) als symmetrische Übertragungsleitung und mindestens einer Senderschaltung und mindestens einer Wechselstrom-Koppel-Empfängerschaltung, die beide mit den Übertragungsleitungen verbunden sind, wobei die Wechselstrom-Koppel-Empfängerschaltung aufweist: Wechselstrom-Koppel-Kondensatoren (C1, C2), die mit den beiden Übertragungsleitungen (A bzw. B) verbunden sind; eine Spannungs-Komparatoreinrichtung (1, C), die mit dem Übertragungsleitungs-Paar (A, B) über die Wechselstrom-Koppel-Kondensatoren (C1, C2) verbunden ist; und ein nichtlineares Element (N), das zwischen dem Übertragungsleitungs-Paar (A, B) in einer Position zwischen den Kondensatoren (C1, C2) und der SpannungsKomparatoreinrichtung verbunden

ist;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Kommunikationssystem weiterhin Mittel (R7, R8) zum Vorspannen der beiden Übertragungsleitungen (A, B) auf vorbestimmte Vorspann-Bedingungen hinsichtlich Massepotential aufweist; und Kurzschluß-Detektionsmittel (F) zum Feststellen eines zwischen dem Übertragungsleitungs-Paar stattfindenden Kurzschlusses, wobei das Vorspannmittel eine Vorspann-Schaltung aufweist, die, wenn das Kurzschluß-Detektionsmittel (F) einen Kurzschluß feststellt, eine Vorspann-Bedingung einer der Übertragungsleitungen (A, B) ändert.

2. Kommunikationssystem nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das nichtlineare Element (N) mindestens eine Diode (D) aufweist.
3. Kommunikationssystem nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das nichtlineare Element (N) mindestens eine Zener-Diode (Zd) aufweist.
4. Kommunikationssystem nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, bei dem die Spannungs-Komparatoreinrichtung (1, C) der Wechselstrom-Koppel-Empfänger-Schaltung einen Komparator (C) aufweist.
5. Kommunikationssystem nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem die Wechselstrom-Koppel-Empfänger-Schaltung Eingang-Potential-Fixiermittel aufweist, um die Spannung eines Übertragungsleitungsseitigen Abschnitts des mit der Übertragungsleitung verbundenen Wechselstrom-Koppel-Kondensators, deren Vorspannungs-Bedingung geändert wird, auf ein vorbestimmtes Potential festzusetzen, wenn das Kurzschluß-Detektionsmittel (F) einen Kurzschluß entdeckt.
6. Kommunikationssystem nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, das weiterhin ein Impedanz-Veränderungsmittel (Tr3, Tr4, R51, RST) aufweist, das an den Eingangsselten der Wechselstrom-Koppel-Kondensatoren (C1 bzw. C2) zum Ändern der Impedanzen der Eingangsseiten der Wechselstrom-Koppel-Kondensatoren angeordnet ist, und wobei das Impedanz-Veränderungsmittel (Tr3, Tr4, R51, R52) beim Öffnen einer der beiden Übertragungsleitungen (A, B) die Eingangsseite des Wechselstrom-Koppel-Kondensators (C2), der der offenen Übertragungsleitung (A) entspricht, auf einen niederen Impedanz-Zustand bringt.

Revendications

1. Système de communication comprenant deux lignes de transmission (A, B) en tant que ligne de transmission équilibrée, et au moins un circuit transmetteur et au moins un circuit receveur de couplage à courant alternatif connectés tous deux aux lignes de transmission, ledit circuit receveur de couplage à courant alternatif comprenant :

- des condensateurs (C1, C2) de couplage de courant alternatif connectés respectivement auxdites deux lignes de transmission (A, B) ;
- des moyens (1, C) comparateurs de tension connectés auxdites deux lignes de transmission (A, B) au travers desdits condensateurs (C1, C2) de couplage de courant alternatif ; et
- un élément non-linéaire (N) connecté entre lesdites deux lignes de transmission (A, B) à un endroit entre lesdits condensateurs (C1, C2) et lesdits moyens (1, C) comparateurs de tension ;

caractérisé en ce que ledit système de communication comprend en outre des moyens (R7, R8) pour polariser lesdites deux lignes de transmission (A, B) à un état de polarisation prédéterminé par rapport au potentiel de la terre ; et

- des moyens (F) de détection de court-circuit pour détecter l'apparition d'un court-circuit entre lesdites deux lignes de transmission (A, B) ; lesdits moyens de polarisation comprenant un circuit polarisateur pour modifier l'état de polarisation de l'une desdites deux lignes de transmission (A, B) quand lesdits moyens (F) de détection de court-circuit détectent un court-circuit.

2. Système de communication selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit élément non-linéaire (N) comprend au moins une diode (D).

3. Système de communication selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit élément non-linéaire (N) comprend au moins une diode Zener (Zd).

4. Système de communication selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3, dans lequel lesdits moyens (1, C) comparateurs de tension dudit circuit receveur de couplage à courant alternatif comprennent un comparateur (C).

5. Système de communication selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit circuit receveur de couplage à

courant alternatif comprend des moyens de fixation du potentiel d'entrée pour fixer la tension d'une partie, du côté de la ligne de transmission, du condensateur de couplage de courant alternatif connecté à la ligne de transmission dont l'état de polarisation est modifié, à un potentiel prédéterminée quand lesdits moyens (F) de détection de court-circuit détectent un court-circuit.

6. Système de communication selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes comprenant en outre des moyens modificateurs d'impédance (Tr3, Tr4, R51, RST) disposés du côté entrée desdits condensateurs respectifs (C1, C2) de couplage à courant alternatif, pour modifier les impédances du côté entrée desdits condensateurs de couplage à courant alternatif, et dans lequel lorsque l'une desdites deux lignes de transmission (A, B) est ouverte, lesdits moyens modificateurs d'impédance (Tr3, Tr4, R51, RST) imposent un état de basse impédance au côté entrée du condensateur du couplage (C2) à courant alternatif correspondant à la ligne de transmission ouverte (A).

FIG. 1

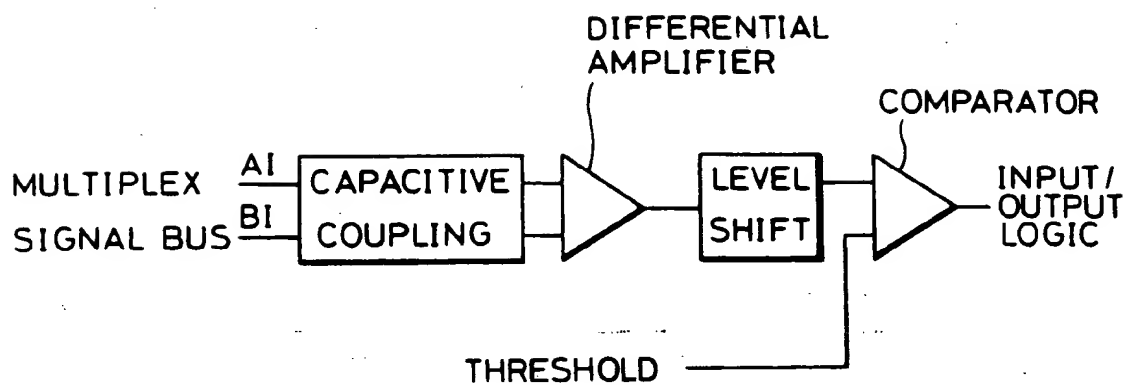


FIG. 2

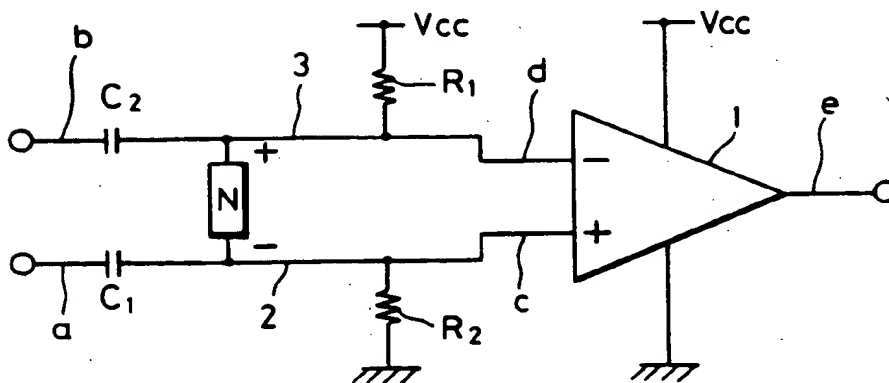


FIG. 3

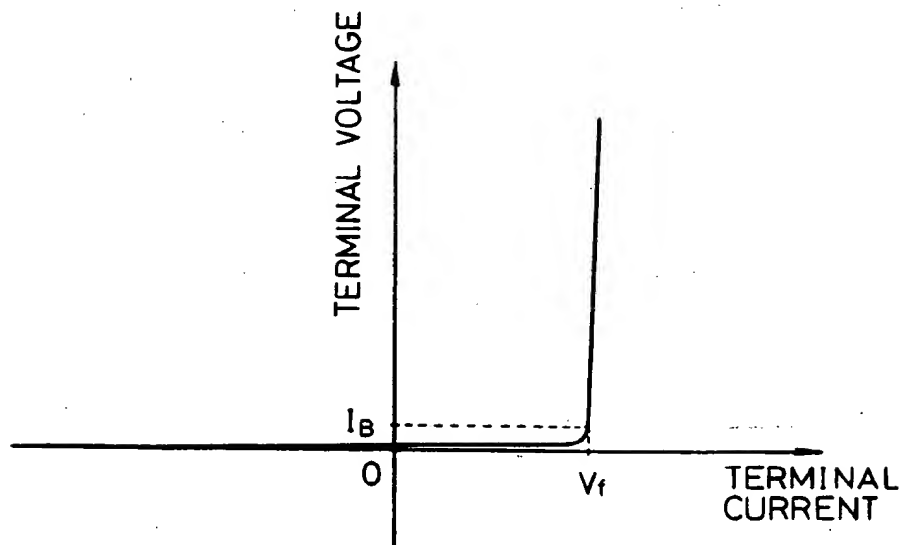


FIG. 6

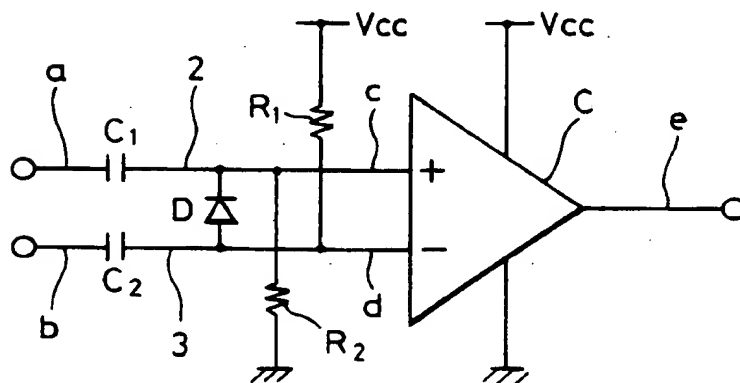


FIG. 4A

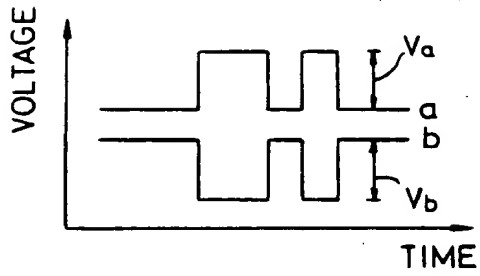


FIG. 5A

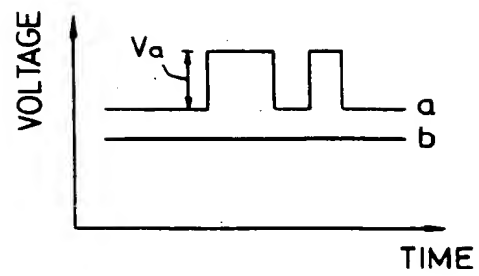


FIG. 4B

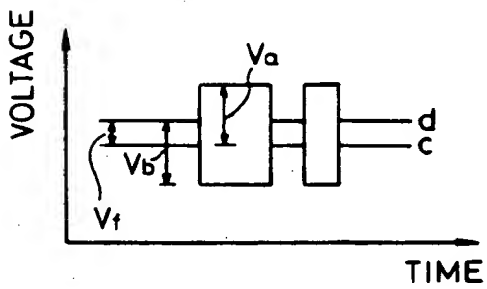


FIG. 5B

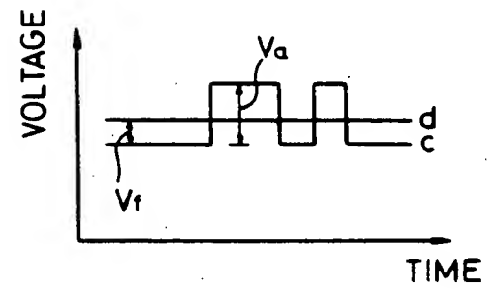


FIG. 4C

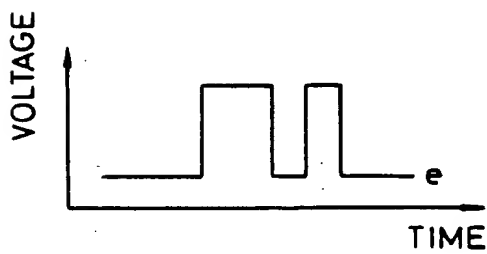


FIG. 5C

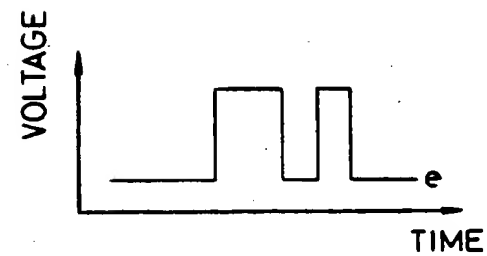


FIG. 7

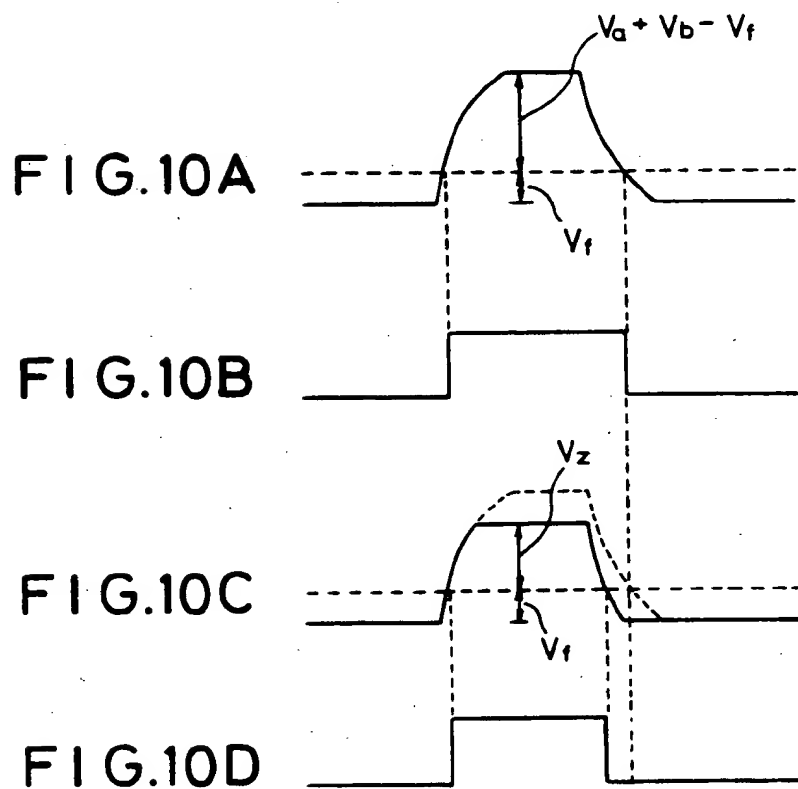
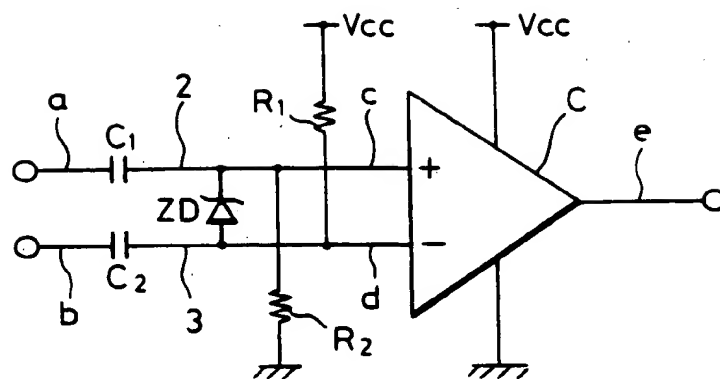


FIG.8A

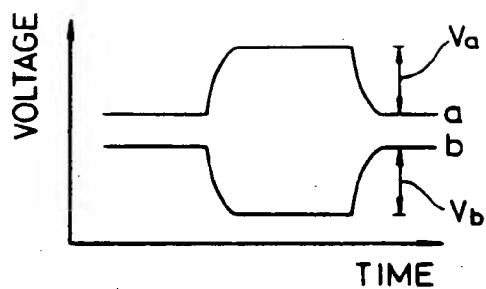


FIG.9A

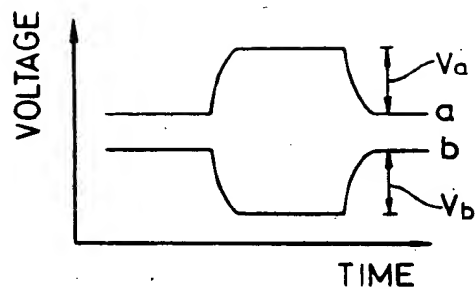


FIG.8B

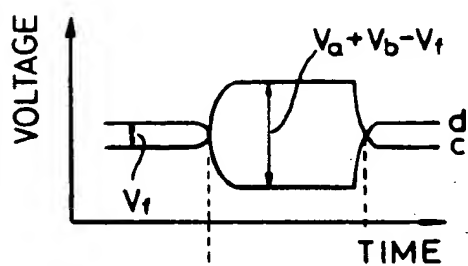


FIG.9B

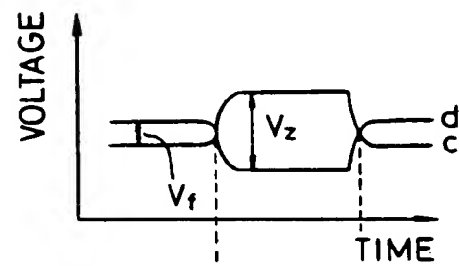


FIG.8C

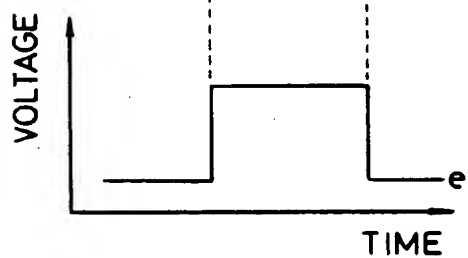


FIG.9C

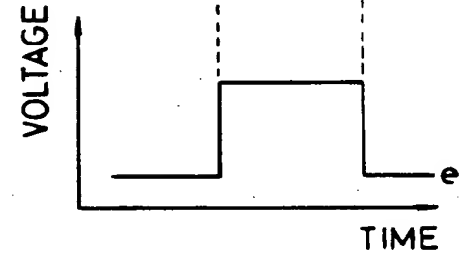
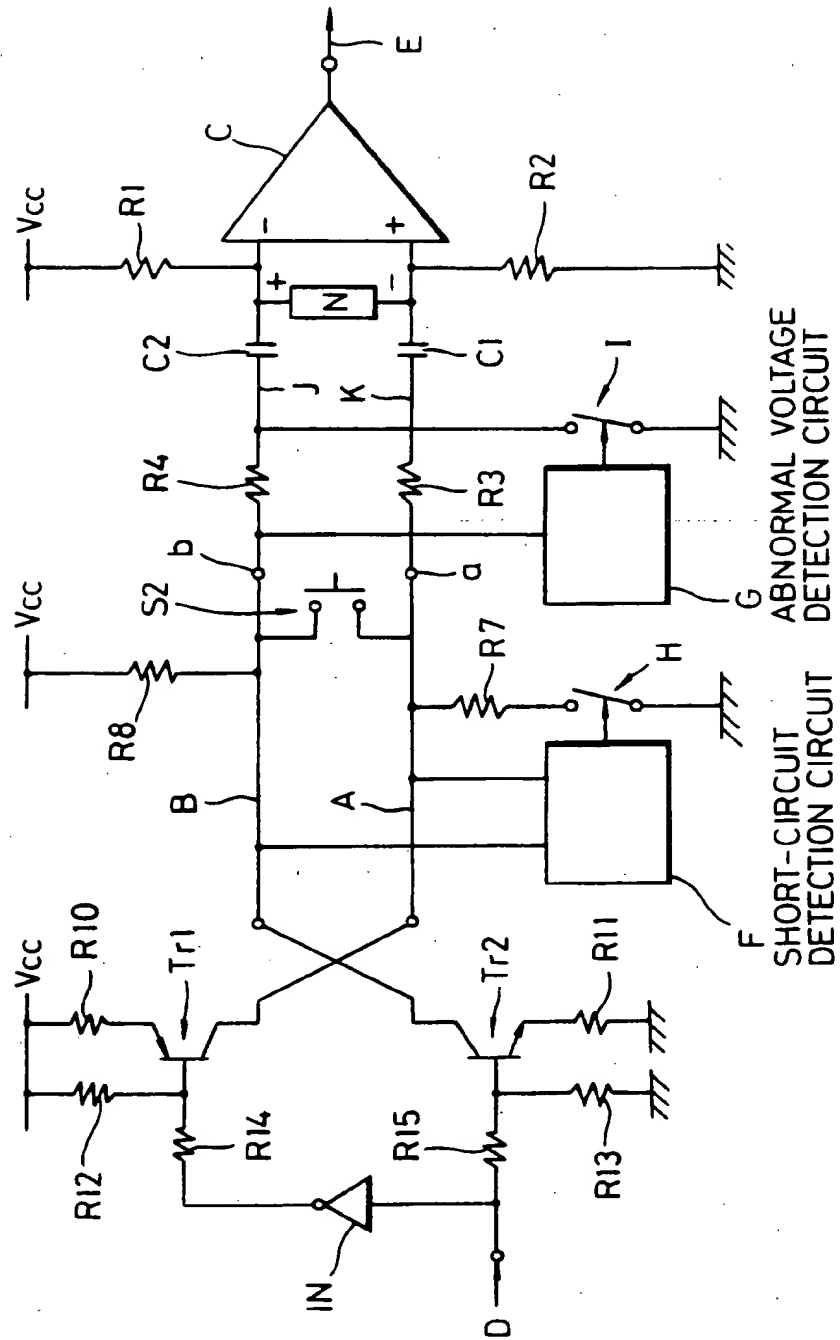


FIG. 11



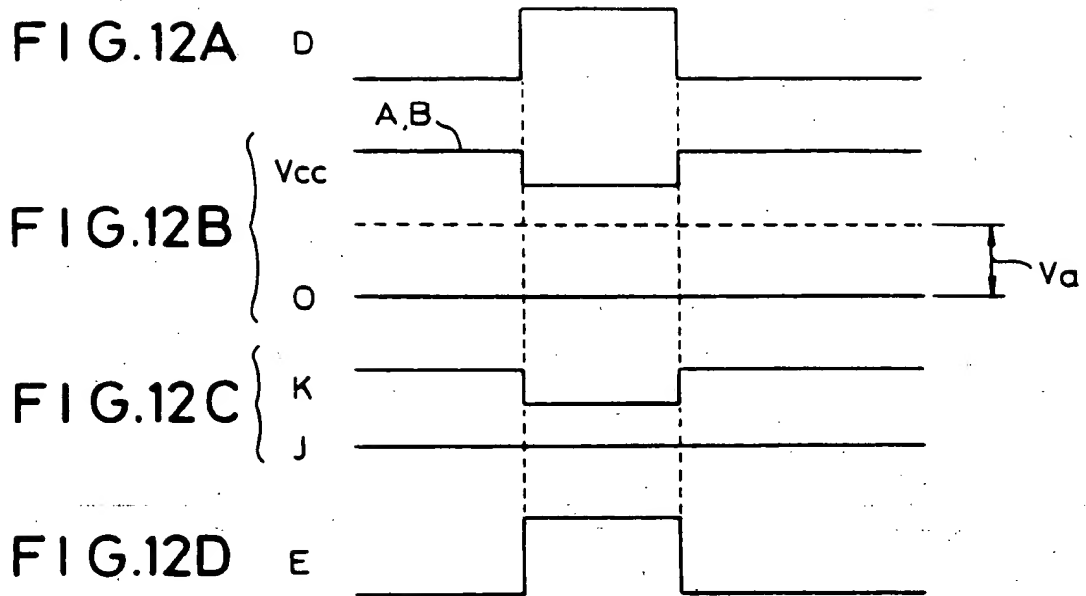


FIG.14

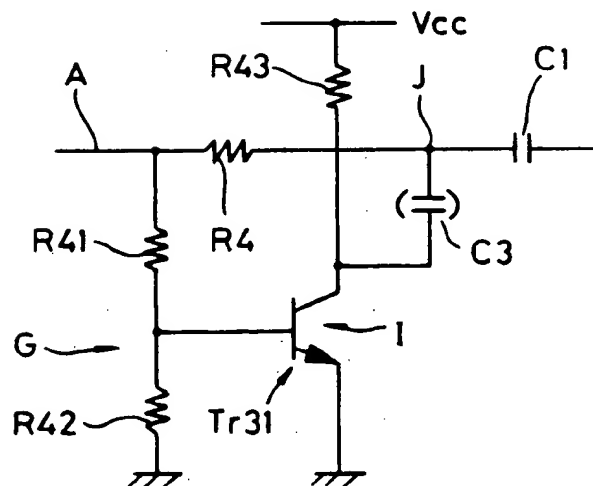


FIG.13A

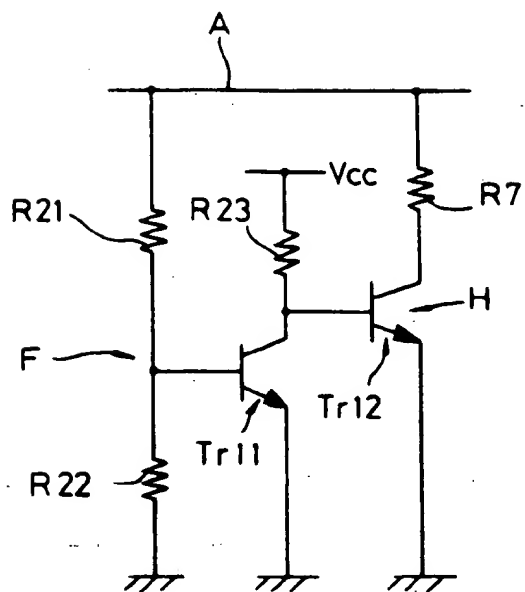


FIG.13B

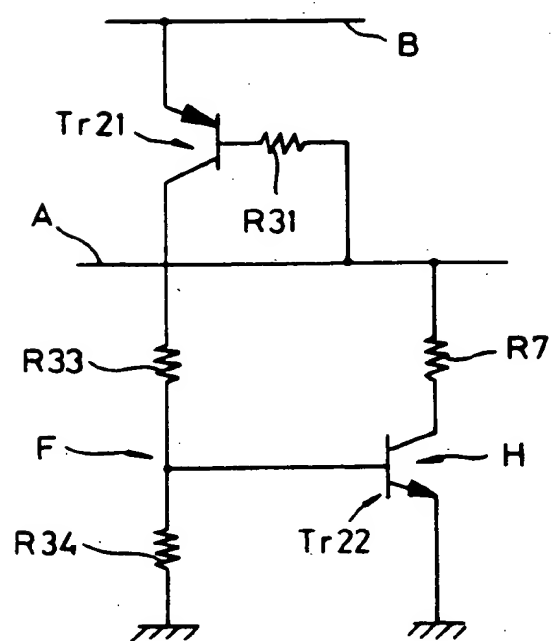


FIG. 15

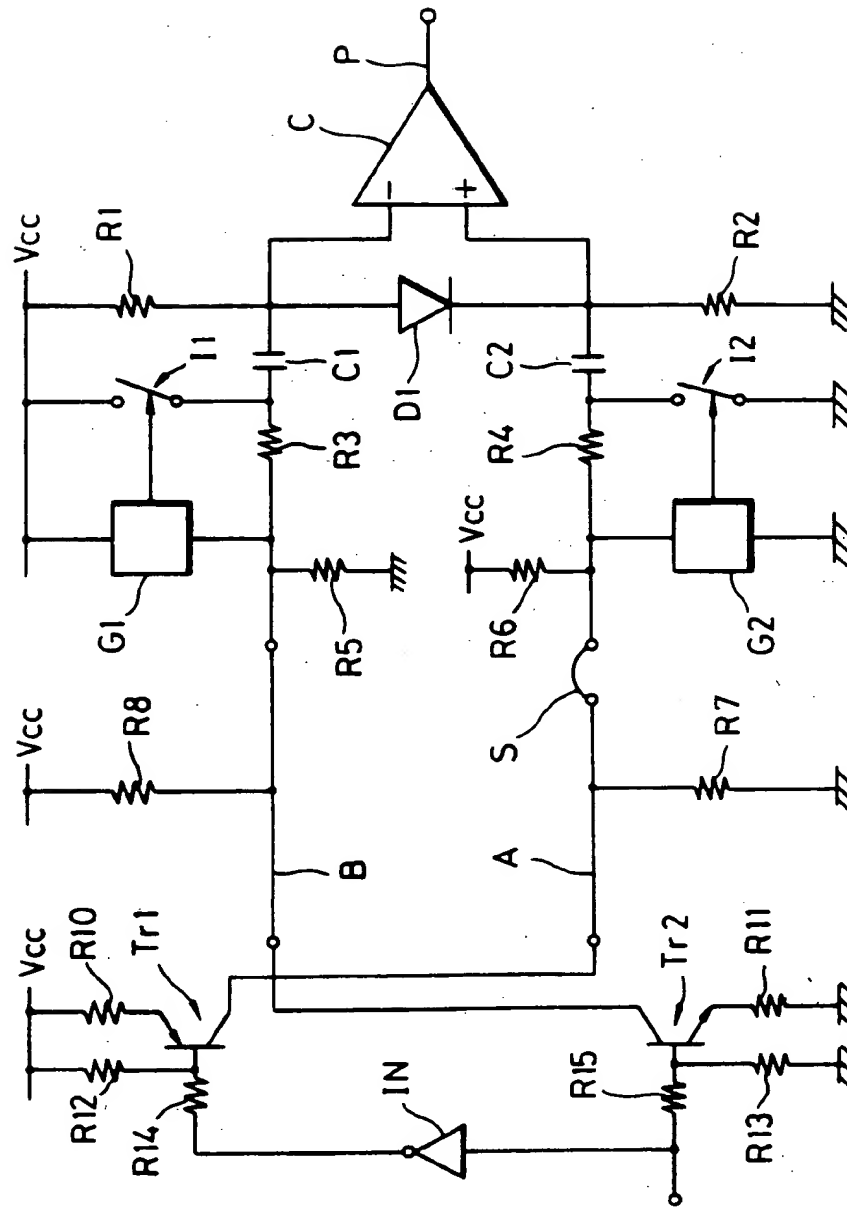


FIG. 16

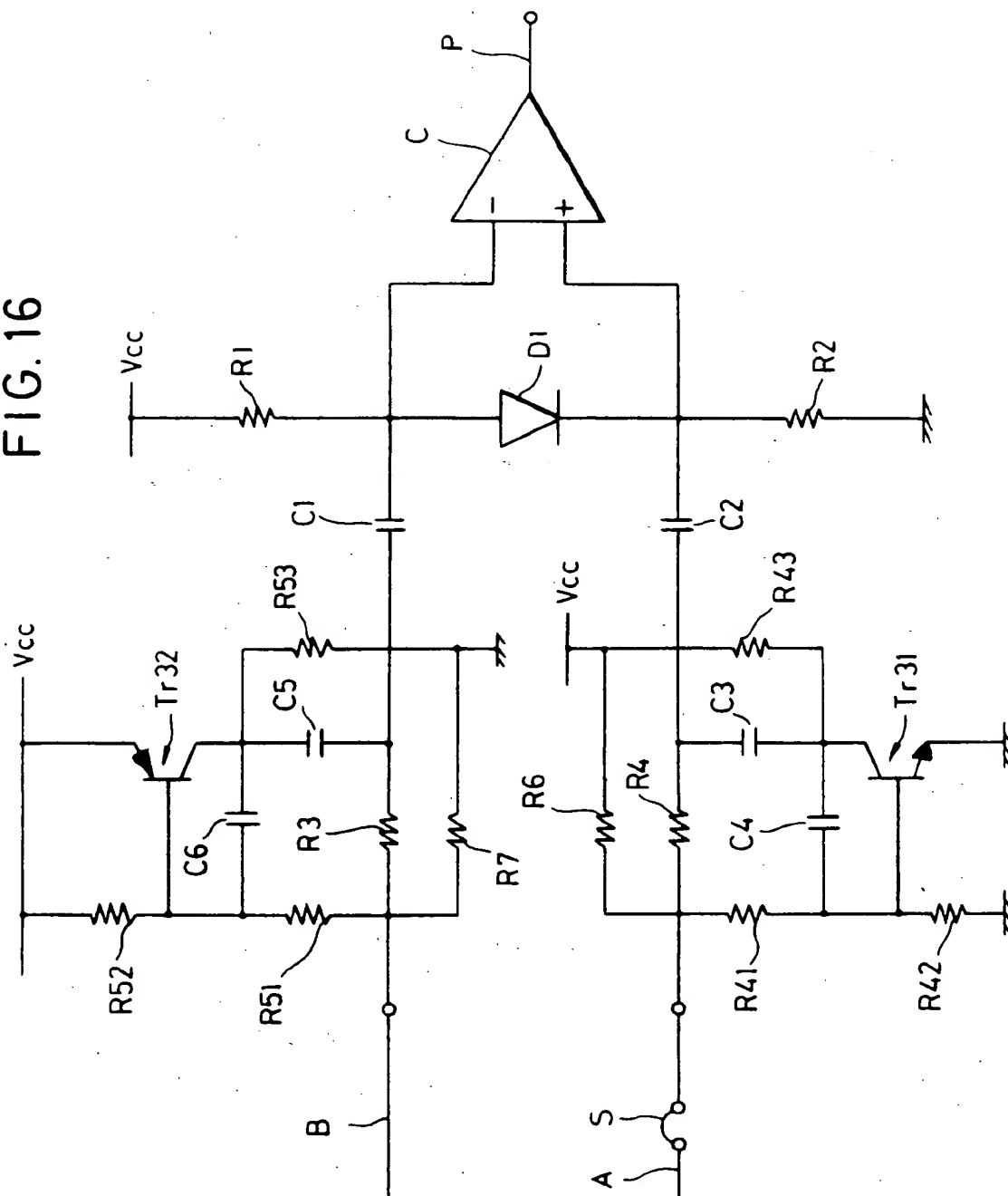


FIG.17

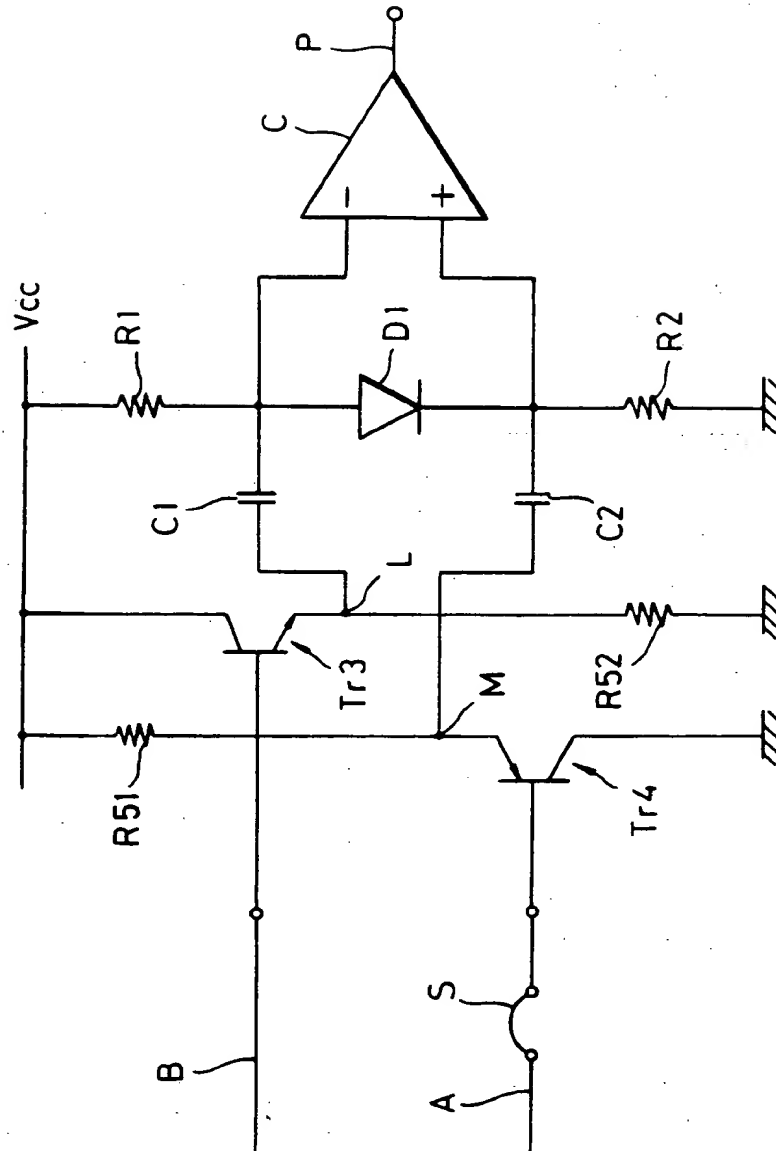


FIG. 18

